



How tesla charging stations work

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An extensive network of Tesla Superchargers is available for quick charging on the go or for road trips. Additionally, Tesla Destination Chargers offer slower charging that's perfect for an overnight stop.

Tesla notes that in most locations, Supercharging costs are determined by kWh, though some locations are priced based on the amount of time you're charging. Additionally, at some locations, pricing may vary depending on the time of day (as with some utilities' electricity rates, you may pay less to charge at night or other off-peak hours). Tesla doesn't list specific Supercharger pricing on its website, but they do lay out pricing tiers, with prices lowest at Tier 1 and increasing up to Tier 4:

So, a Supercharging session at 9:30 pm in which you consume 13 kWh (resulting in an approximately 60 percent charge from an almost empty Tesla Model 3) costs \$3.12. However, just 30 minutes earlier, the cost would've doubled to \$6.24. However, it's still much cheaper to charge your Tesla at a Supercharger than it is to fuel up a comparable gas-powered vehicle!

Most Tesla Superchargers have idle fees, meaning that if you leave your Tesla plugged in at a Supercharger after it has fully charged, you'll be charged a fee (usually \$1.00 per minute). However, if you move your Tesla within five minutes of reaching a full charge, Tesla will waive the idle fee.

Usually, Destination Chargers are free to patrons of the businesses where they're located (e.g., if you're staying at the hotel overnight or eating at a restaurant in the parking deck where it's located). However, depending on the hotel and location, you may have a standard overnight parking or valet parking fee -- which is usually the same fee as anyone paying to park a car at the hotel.

Tesla Superchargers are usually easily accessible from major highways and roads, so they're ideal for road trips. These fast chargers are typically located near various food, coffee, or shopping options, though the accessibility and options vary widely depending on the Supercharger location. Tesla has done an exceptional job at building out its charging infrastructure, with over 30,000 Supercharger stations worldwide, but not surprisingly, more remote locations have minimal options.

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Superchargers are named appropriately: they charge your Tesla very quickly at a maximum rate of 250 kilowatt-hours (kWh). So, what does that mean when it comes to the time spent charging your Tesla? It varies depending on a few factors like how depleted your battery is, which model Tesla you're driving, the Supercharger location's specific energy output, and how many other people are charging. You will need to add in charging time on road trips, so here's a general guide to the average mileage you'll add with 15 minutes of Supercharging:

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Web: <https://sumthingtasty.co.za/contact-us/>

Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

